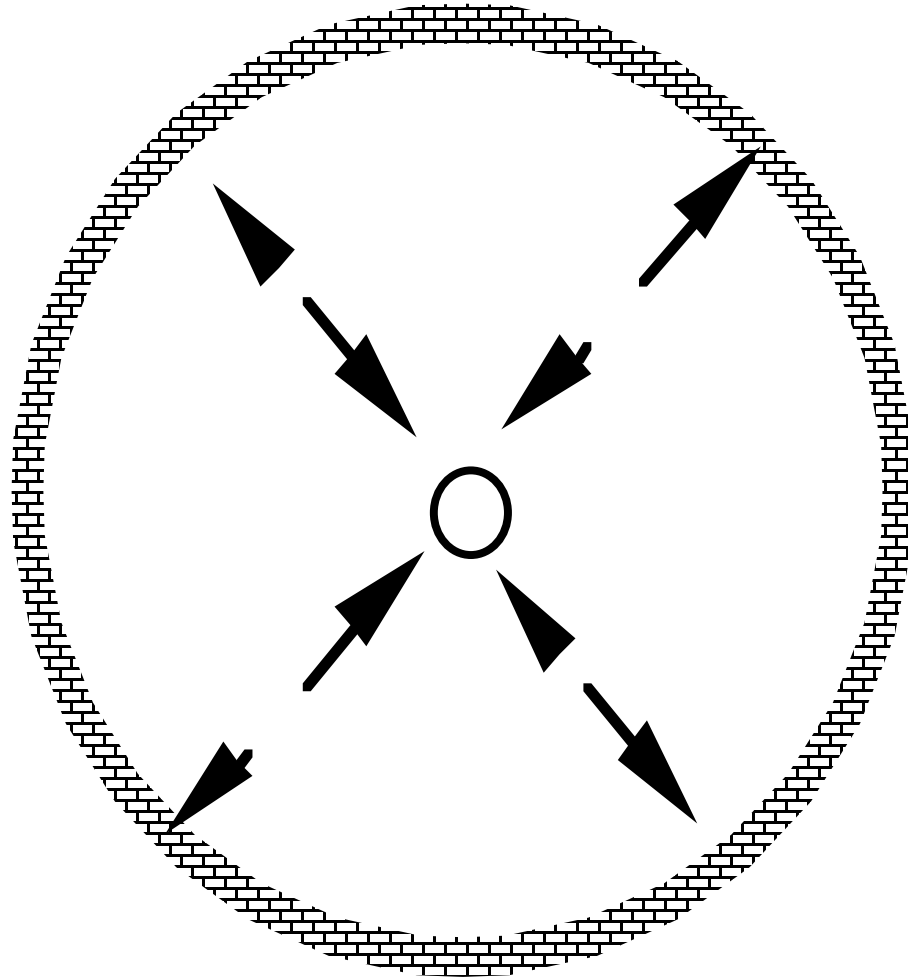


Religious

Experience



Religion Re + ligare To bind back

God Sanskrit Ghu ('called' 'calling') + To ('The one')

Religious	God	Experience of
Experience is	Centre – Heart	Communion with
God		

God 'The Heart and the Beyond of Everything'

Teilhard de Chardin

# The Numinous dimension of religious experience

## Word

### Judaism

- Prophet Moses

### Islam

- Prophet Muhammad

## Heart

- Book - Torah

- Obedience

- Book - Qur'an

- Submission

‘The world is full of God’s glory’(Isaiah 6:3)



# God is experienced

- in nature
- in people & events
- in words spoken & written
- in works of art

They reveal something of the truth, beauty & goodness of the transcendent & mysterious God

‘But what is my God? I put my question to the earth.  
It answered, 'I am not God', and all things on earth declared the same.  
I asked the sea and the chasms of the deep  
and the living things that creep in them,  
but they answered, 'We are not your God. Seek what is above us'  
I spoke to the winds that blow, and the air and all that lives in it replied,  
'Anaximenes is wrong. I am not God'.  
I asked the sky, the sun, the moon, and the stars, and they told me,  
'Neither are we the God whom you seek'.  
I spoke to all the things that are about me,  
all that come through the door of the senses,  
and I said, 'Since you are not my God tell me about Him.  
Tell me something of my God'.  
Loud and clear they answered, 'God is the One who made us!'  
I asked these questions simply by gazing at these things.  
Their only answer was their beauty.’

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –

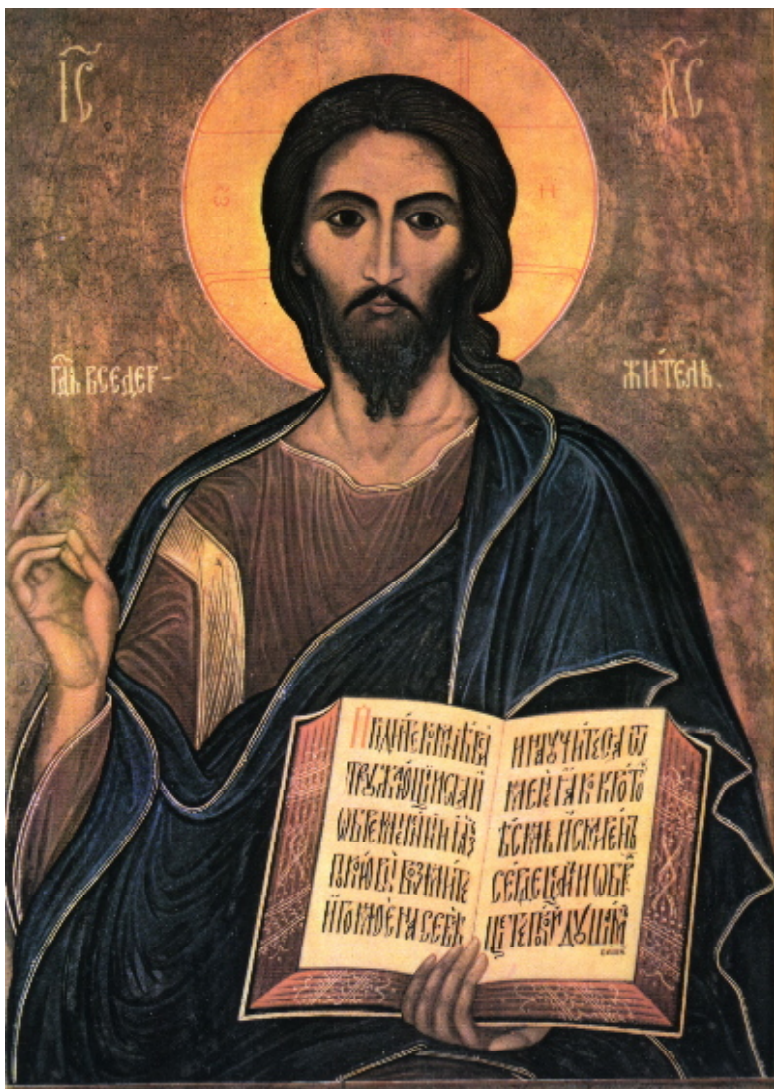
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and ah! bright wings.

# God is revealed in

- the Vedas & Upanishads
- the sayings of K'ung-fu-tzu (Confucius)
- the sayings of Gautama the Buddha
- the oracles of the Hebrew Scriptures
- the New Testament
- the Moslem Qur'an
- the mystics, poets, artists of all cultures





Matthew 11:28-29

Jesus is God's perfect human word, God's Word-made-flesh  
His Spirit is his love-communion with God whom he calls 'Father'  
'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'



## John 1:18

No one has ever seen God. It is God's only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, who has made him known'

The Mystical dimension of religious experience

Spirit

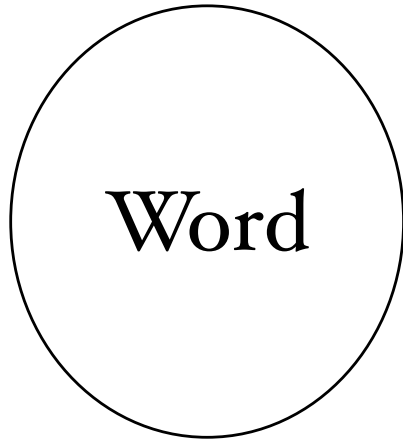
Buddhism

Heart

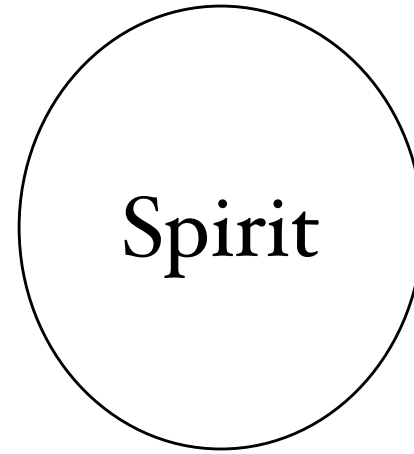
Enlightenment

‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us’(Romans 5:5)

# Revelation



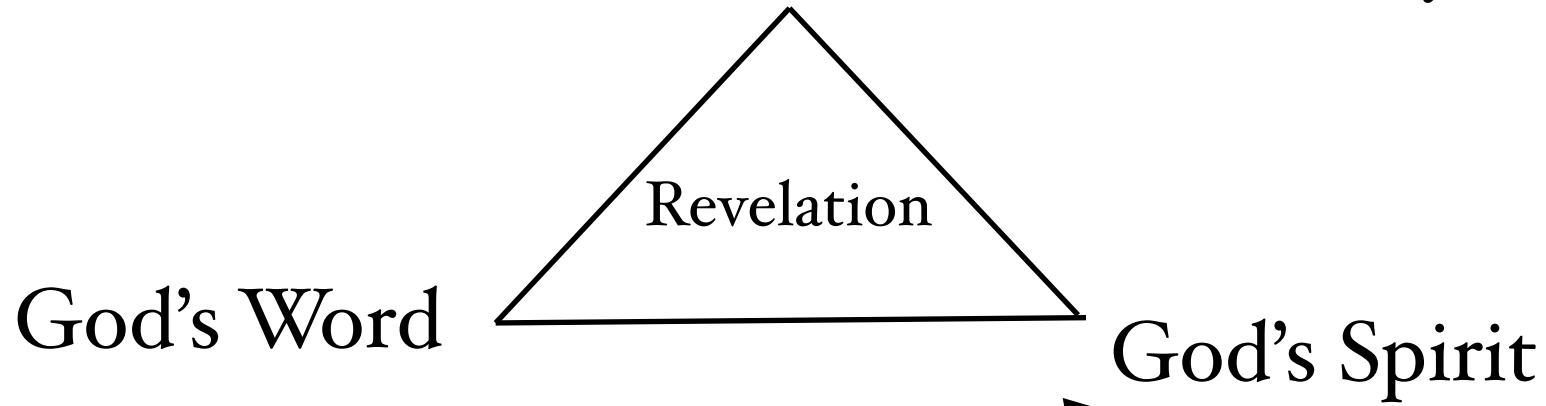
heart



speaks to

heart

# Transcendent ('holy') God



- Nature
- Events
- Prophetic oracle
- Sacred Writings

## John 1:1-5

- ‘In the beginning was the Word and the Word was towards God, and the Word was God. The Word was towards God in the beginning.
- All things came into being through the Word. Without the Word not one thing came into being.
- What came into being in the Word was life, and life was the light of all people.
- The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it ...

## John 1:9-10

- The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
- The Word was in the world. The world came into being through the Word. Yet the world did not know the Word.



Moses said, “Oh, let me behold your Presence!” And YHWH answered, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name YHWH ... but you cannot see my face, for man may not see Me and live.”





And YHWH said, “See, there is a place near Me. Station yourself on the rock, and as my Presence passes by. I will put you in a cleft of the rock and shield you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you will see My back; but My face must not be seen.”

# John 1:12-13



But to all who did welcome  
the Word, and believe,

the Word gave power to  
become children of God,

born not of human generation

['bloods']

or of human striving

['the will of the flesh']

or of male power,

but of God.

# John 1:14



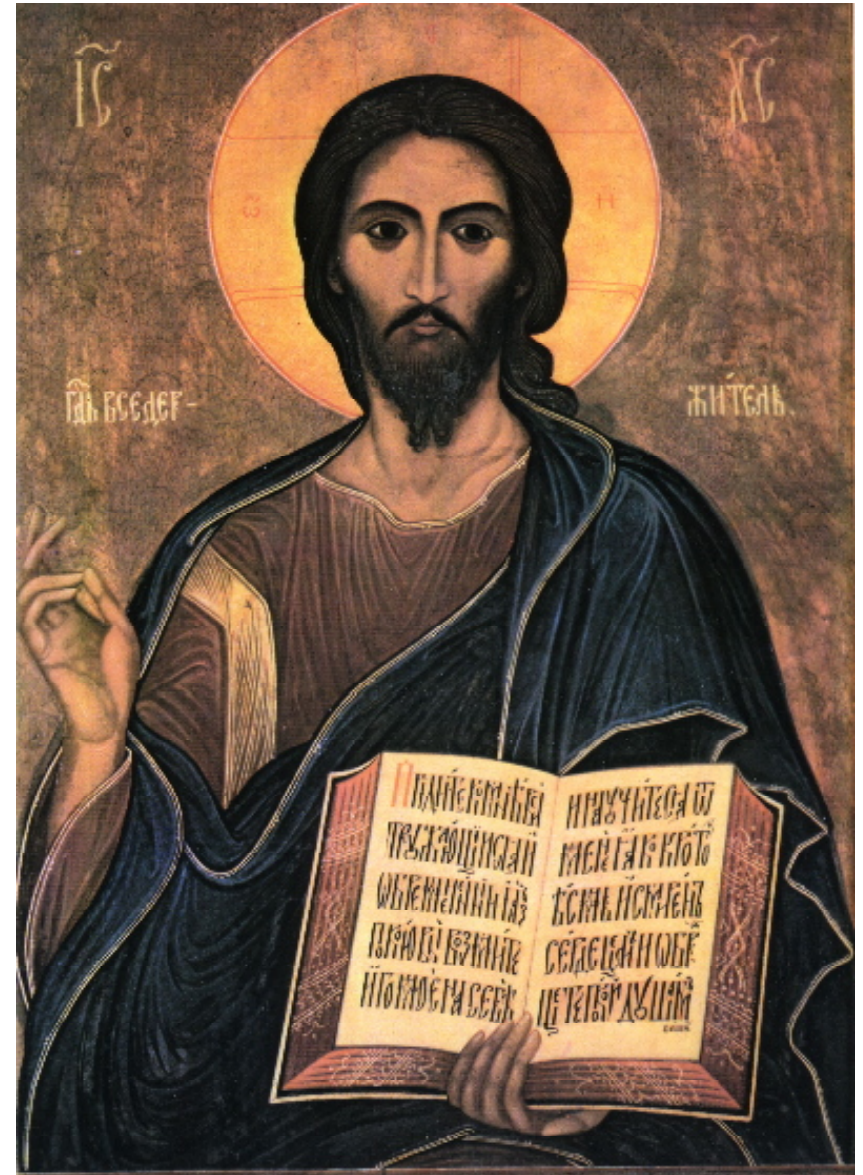
‘And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of the gift of truth.’

- Jesus is God’s perfect human word, God’s Word-made-flesh
- He received everything from God - life, word, Spirit.
- His Word and Spirit reveal God as LOVE

‘The Law [Torah] indeed was given through Moses;  
the gift of Truth came through Jesus the Christ.’



John 1:17



## John 1:18

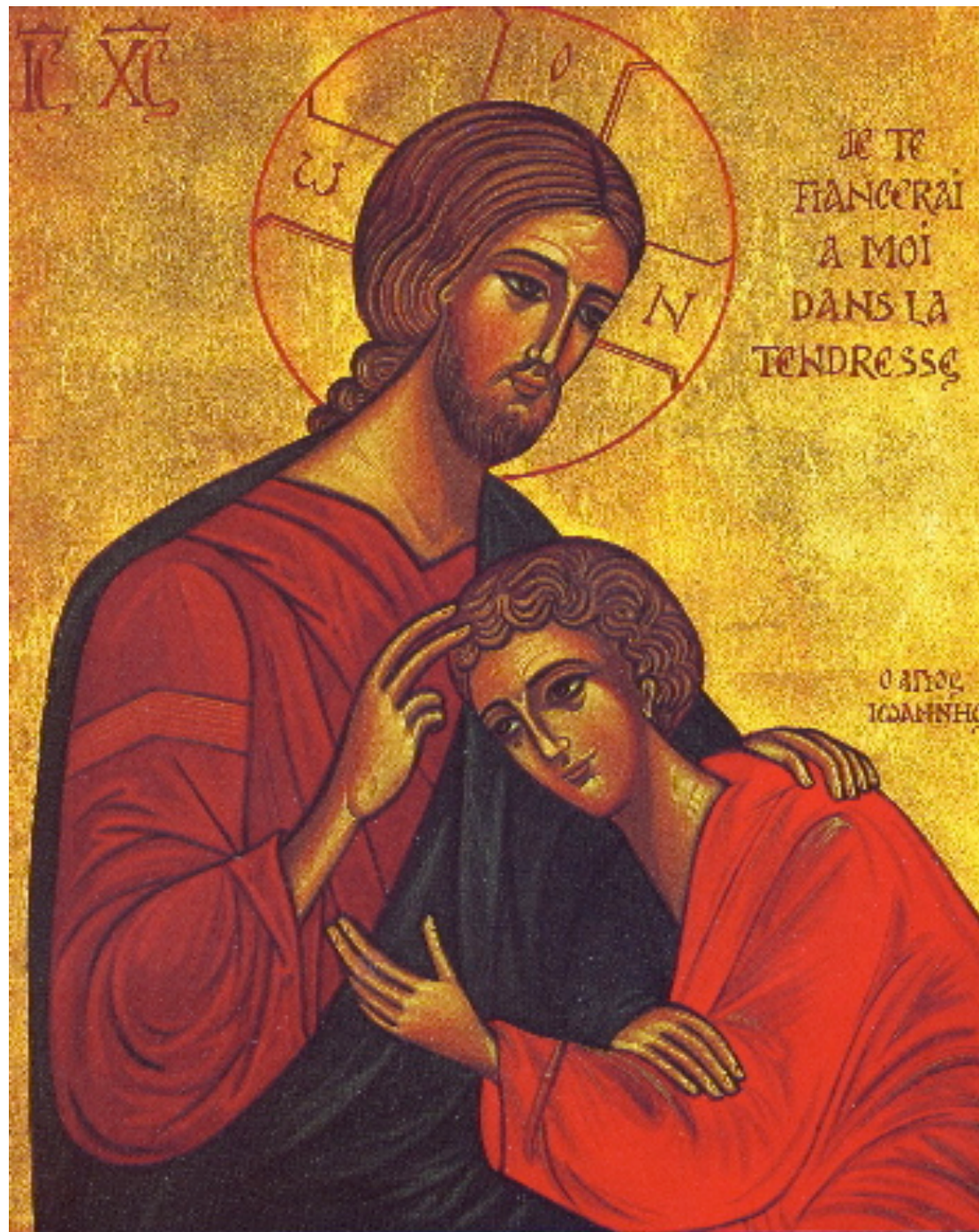
‘No one has ever seen God. It is God’s only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, who has made Him known.’



‘We declare to you what was from the beginning, 1John 1:1-4  
what we have heard,  
what we have seen with our eyes,  
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,  
concerning the word of life —

this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it,  
and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father  
and was revealed to us —

we declare to you what we have seen and heard  
so that you also may have communion with us; and truly  
our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.



(Roman Catechism, Council of Trent, 1545-1563, Preface 10).

‘The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching must be directed to the love that never ends.

Whether something is proposed for belief, for hope or for action, the love of our Lord must always be made accessible, so that anyone can see that all the works of perfect Christian virtue spring from love and have no other objective than to arrive at love.’